

a major contributor to the arts community in Missouri and a friend of mine who is retiring after 40 years as founder and Artistic Leader of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He also organized The Kansas City Symphony and has served as its Artistic Director.

In addition to his position with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, he is Festival Director and Principal Conductor at the Sunflower Music Festival as well as founder and serving as Artistic Director of the Buzzards Bay Musicfest. Mr. Patterson also is credited for founding the Missouri River Festival of the Arts in Boonville, Missouri. He has appeared as guest conductor in opera and concert engagements in Mexico City, London, New York, Seattle, Cincinnati, and Sacramento.

Mr. Patterson has spent his career enriching Kansas City with his talent and vision. He is a graduate of the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He helped establish the Middle-America Opera Apprentice Program in conjunction with the Conservatory. The Apprentice Program is designed to prepare exceptional young singers for a professional operatic career. The Program continues to gain national recognition for its commitment to aspiring artists.

As a trailblazer in the arts community, Mr. Patterson has served on the Advisory panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Missouri Arts Council, as a consultant to the Ford foundation, and on the Board of Directors of OPERA America. He has received numerous awards and honors including the Alumni Achievement Award, the Dean's Awards, the nationally prestigious Conductor's Award from the Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, and the W.F. Yates Medalion from William Jewell College. In 1996, Mr. Patterson was honored at the OPERA America 25th Anniversary Conference for his years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Russell Patterson for his commitment to our community's future artists and his service in music in Kansas City. I wish he and his lovely wife Terri well in all of their future endeavors, and hope we can enjoy some tennis at the Cape.

#### RETIRED CITIZENS MONTH IN ALABAMA

#### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Governor Fob James in recognition of Western Hills of North Alabama Advantage for Relocation and Retirement during Retired Citizens Month in Alabama.

North Alabama is home to a significant number of retired citizens. Due to the beautiful natural environment and pleasant weather, people find North Alabama a comfortable place to retire. I commend the people at Western Hills for being fine ambassadors of the State of Alabama and improving the quality of life for all in our State.

I would like to insert into the RECORD the Governor's proclamation in recognition of Retired Citizens Month in Alabama.

Whereas, the Western Hills of North Alabama Advantage for Relocation and Retirement

is dedicated to the development of a positive image of North Alabama; and

Whereas, the Western Hills of North Alabama for Relocation and Retirement promotes community activities, recreational opportunities, historical sites, and many other unique attractions that are indigenous to North Alabama so that more of the nation's retirees will want to relocate to our great state during their retirement years; and

Whereas, retirees carry tremendous importance to the State of Alabama, contributing greatly to our employment, economic prosperity, and international trade relations; and

Whereas, retirees not only contribute to our State through financial means but through their sharing of a lifetime of experience and knowledge that can be passed down to our younger generations of Alabamians; and

Whereas, the State of Alabama supports the Western Hills of North Alabama Advantage for Relocation and Retirement for its efforts to increase the numbers of retirees that relocate to our state:

Now therefore I, Fob James, Jr., Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim June 1998 as Retired Citizens Month in Alabama, to further show our State's appreciation for the retired population.

March 18, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, join me in recognizing June as Retired Citizens Month in Alabama.

#### IN HONOR OF RUTH R. CRONE

#### HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ruth R. Crone's outstanding leadership on the occasion of her retirement from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). For thirty years, she has helped guide the Washington region through an era of tremendous growth and change.

As the Executive Director, Ruth was responsible for the overall administration of COG as well as supervising the development and implementation of COG's policies and programs. She served as the Director of Human Resources and Public Safety from 1980 to 1988, and as the Director of the Department of Human Resources from 1972 to 1980.

The Council of Governments, founded in 1957, is an independent, non-profit association composed of the eighteen local governments in the Washington metropolitan area. The COG develops and implements programs in response to regional concerns such as growth, transportation, air and water quality, child care, crime, and economic development.

Ruth also serves as the Executive Vice President of the Center for Public Administration and Service, board member of the D.C. Agenda Support Corporation, ex-officio board member of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and editor for the Regionalist, the publication of the National Association of Regional Councils. She is a frequent speaker at area universities and association meetings, has appeared on local and national radio and television talk shows and news programs, and has testified before numerous Congressional committees.

Prior to joining COG in 1969, Ruth worked as a planner with the Northeastern Illinois

Planning Commission in Chicago and the Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development, and as a health planner with the Public Health Federation of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ruth has been honored many times for her contributions to public service and for her successful career. Her awards include the National Public Service Award from the American Society for Public Administration and the National Academy for Public Administration, the 1998 Alumni Achievement Award from Muhlenberg College, and the International City/County Management Association's Professional Development Award. Washingtonian magazine named her one of the region's most influential leaders in 1992, and one of the region's most powerful women in 1994 and 1997.

Ruth received her undergraduate degree in sociology from Muhlenberg College and obtained her Master's Degree in Community Planning from the University of Cincinnati.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Ruth on her outstanding career and many achievements. Her leadership at the Council of Governments will be missed, but her accomplishments never forgotten. The groundwork Ruth has laid will continue to sow the seeds of success for the metropolitan region.

#### DRED SCOTT COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE BILL

#### HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation authorizing the U.S. Park Service to install a plaque to commemorate the Dred Scott decision at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Old Courthouse is part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM) which was created by Congress to commemorate and illustrate many of the historic events which occurred during this nation's westward expansion. The purpose of JNEM is to foster an awareness and understanding of those who settled the vast frontier region west of the Mississippi River.

In keeping with its mission to commemorate the significant occurrences in the westward expansion of the United States, this legislation authorizes the National Park Service to install a plaque advising visitors that the Dred Scott case was tried at this Courthouse and enlightening them to the debate over slavery that was launched by the landmark Supreme Court ruling in the 1857 case of Dred Scott v. Sandford.

Dred Scott, a slave who sought his freedom on the basis that he had lived in free territory, lost his case and his appeal to the Supreme Court. He did not live to see the end of slavery. However, by fighting for his freedom, Dred Scott made a great contribution to this nation. Historians consider the Dred Scott decision to be among the key events that triggered the Civil War. In it, the Supreme Court ruled that slaves could not be citizens of the United States and could not sue in federal courts. But the Supreme Court did not stop here. In an effort to put an end to the debate over slavery, under the leadership of Chief